

ABSTRACT

Attitudes and beliefs on HPV infection and vaccination III

Author: Andrea Říhová

Consultant: PharmDr. Eva Zimčíková, Ph.D.

Introduction

Nearly 80% of world's population will get human papillomavirus (HPV) infection at some point of their lives. More than 99% cases of cervical cancer, which belongs to the second most common malignancy of women, is associated with HPV infection. The most reliable protection against this infection is vaccination.

Aims

The aim of the work was to find out knowledge of high school students about human papillomavirus and diseases caused by these viruses. In addition, find out the vaccine coverage rate against HPV and attitudes of students to this vaccination.

Methods

Data for this diploma thesis were obtained by survey, which took place at two high schools in the Usti Region in 2018. Overall, 291 questionnaires were used. Respondents were in age of 15–19. Data were processed by computer program Microsoft Excel. The t-test and Pearson's chi-squared test were used to statistically evaluate the data.

Results

Average age of the respondents was 17 years and 73.5% of respondents were women. Non-believers (93.5%) and non-smokers (92.4%) predominated among the respondents. Only one of the students did not know the concept of cervical cancer or penile cancer. More than half of the students (56.7%) have already heard about the human papillomavirus vaccine.

The vaccine coverage rate at these schools was 62.5%. The most frequently reported reasons for not being vaccinated were related to the doubt about the vaccine efficacy, the fear of undesirable effects and distrust of the vaccination.

Conclusions

Compared to men, women had better knowledge about HPV infection, cervical cancer and vaccination. Equally, the knowledge was better with higher age of the respondents. The vaccine coverage rate could be enhanced by increasing awareness at target age groups. Also, better knowledge about vaccination could positively change student's attitude to the HPV vaccination.

Key words: HPV infection, immunization, knowledge, cervical cancer, prevention